

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 12, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated August 25, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-16, 22, 24-30, 36, and 38-40 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 15, and 29, the independent claims, have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

In the Office Action dated May 12, 2005, Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-16, 22, 24-30, 36, and 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,421,733 B1 (*Tso et al.*) in view of "Request for Comments 1521: MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) Part One" (*RFC*).

Claim 1 is directed to an e-mail processing method. The method includes, first, identifying whether a received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail based on a header of the received e-mail. The method also includes, second, identifying a data type of each part included in a text of the received e-mail, when it is identified in said first identifying step that the received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail. The method further includes determining whether each part included in the received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type. The method further includes (1) storing a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part can be processed, and (2) deleting a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part cannot be processed.

Among other notable features, the e-mail processing method of Claim 1 identifies whether a received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail based on a header of the received e-mail. If it is identified that the received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail, a data type of each part of the received e-mail is identified. Then it is determined whether each part can be

processed by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type. If it is determined that the part can be processed, the part that can be processed is stored. If it is determined that the part cannot be processed, the part that cannot be processed is deleted.

Tso et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a system for dynamically transcoding data transmitted between computers. *Tso et al.* discusses types of information (e.g., so-called “data type-specific preferences” or “custom rules or programs for filtering/transcoding/processing data”) which may be used to dictate which of transcode service providers 24 are invoked. (See column 7 of *Tso et al.*) *Tso et al.* merely directs a data stream to the appropriate transcode service provider 24 (see column 10 of *Tso*).

Tso et al. merely discusses transcoding data, and nothing in that patent would teach or suggest, first, identifying whether a received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail based on a header of the received e-mail, and, second, identifying a data type of each part included in a text of the received e-mail, when it is identified that the received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail, as recited in Claim 1. Moreover, nothing in *Tso et al.* would teach or suggest determining whether each part included in the received e-mail can be processed by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type, and if it is determined that the part can be processed, the part that can be processed is stored, and if it is determined that the part cannot be processed, the part that cannot be processed is deleted, as recited in Claim 1.

The *RFC*, as understood by Applicant, specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community; however, nothing in the *RFC* would remedy the deficiencies of *Tso et al.* discussed above.

Accordingly, even if the *RFC* and *Tso et al.* are combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner (or in any other manner), the result would not meet the terms of the claims.

For these reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Tso et al.* and the *RFC*, either separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

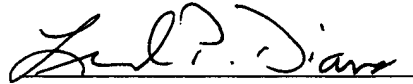
Independent Claims 15 and 29 are apparatus and computer-readable storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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